

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-12 are pending. Claims 2 and 13 are currently canceled, and claims 1 and 3-5 are currently amended. Claim 5 has been amended solely to correct minor informalities. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The Examiner has indicated that the Title should be updated to reflect the elected invention. Accordingly, the Title is currently amended to remove reference to the method. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the objection to the specification has been overcome.

35 U.S.C. § 102 REJECTIONS AND OBJECTION TO CLAIM 2

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shimoda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,362,020); EP 1,258,555 (Figures 5 and 6); and any one of Oishi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,975,745), Akira (U.S. Patent No. 4,952,281), Hall (U.S. Patent No. 4,360,356), Bossons (U.S. Patent No. 3,799,038) and Kanno (U.S. Patent 3,552,668).

Claim 2 stands objected to for informalities.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 2-4. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of original claim 2, while correcting any informalities in the original claim 2 language, and claim 2 is hereby canceled. In addition, claims 3 and 4 have been amended to update the dependency from claim 2 to claim 1.

Accordingly, the objection to claim 2 is moot, and the rejections of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) have been overcome.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant further appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 5-12 and respectfully submits that all of claims 1 and 3-12 are in condition for allowance.

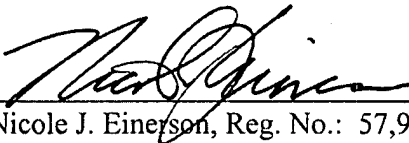
CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the specification and claims as amended are in condition for allowance. Applicants request that the Examiner telephone the undersigned agent of record in the event a telephone discussion would be helpful in advancing the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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